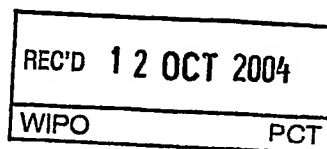




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in connection with Application No. 2003905239 for a patent by ANDREW
MCDONALD and DOUGLAS GREVETT as filed on 24 September 2003.



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AUSTRALIA

Patents Act 1990

Andrew McDonald, Douglas Grevett

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

Invention Title:

Means for disenabling the use of a toilet bowl

The invention is described in the following statement:

Technical Field

This invention concerns a means for temporarily disabling the use of toilet facilities.

5 Background Art

During construction of residential buildings such as blocks of units or apartments, temporary portable toilet facilities are provided for building and construction workers who are engaged in the construction of these buildings. Such facilities are often referred to as "portaloos" and are a common feature on building
10 sites around Australia. However, such "portaloos" are often located some distance from where the workers are engaged, particularly in the case of high rise buildings. Due to this inconvenience, workers are more often than not, reluctant to waste time travelling to and from the "portaloos". Therefore, there is an unfortunate tendency by building workers to make use of toilet facilities newly installed in the buildings. This
15 use commonly takes place prior to connection of the toilet facilities to plumbing systems and often results in the blockage of toilet facilities. This is an unsavoury and unhealthy practice not to mention costly for the construction company as plumbers are required to travel to the site to unblock the toilet facilities, and restore the status of the facilities.

20 The present invention seeks to address these problems.

Any discussion of documents, acts, materials, devices, articles or the like which has been included in the present specification is solely for the purpose of providing a context for the present invention. It is not to be taken as an admission that any or all of these matters form part of the prior art base or were common general knowledge in the
25 field relevant to the present invention as it existed before the priority date of each claim of this application.

Summary of the Invention

In a first broad aspect, the invention provides a cover means for temporarily
30 blocking a toilet bowl and means for removably locking the cover means in position.

The invention, as currently envisaged is a means for temporarily blocking a toilet bowl, which comprises a cover means for temporarily blocking a toilet bowl, and a bracket arrangement connectable to the cover means, the bracket arrangement comprising a first bracket defining a first longitudinal axis and being supportable on the
35 upper surface of the rim of a toilet bowl and a lower bracket defining a second longitudinal axis connected to the first bracket in such a manner that the axes are

rotatable relative to one another, the lower bracket having a length such that it may be inserted under the lower edge of the fluid splashback preventer of the toilet bowl in one orientation relative to the bowl but which may be engaged under the lower edge of the fluid splashback preventer of the toilet bowl in a second orientation, and including
 5 means for locking the lower bracket in that second orientation.

The cover means is preferably in form of an oval plate made of mild steel, with a protective rubber pad extending around the perimeter of the plate.

Typically the plate is attachable to the first bracket by means of tamperproof screws or the like.

10 The brackets may be made of mild steel and may include protective rubber pads on their ends.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Examples of the invention will now be described with reference to the
 15 accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a top view of a toilet blocking apparatus embodying the present invention;

Figure 2 is a side view of the toilet blocking apparatus of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is an exploded isometric view of the toilet blocking apparatus of Figure
 20 1; and

Figure 4 is a cut away perspective view illustrating the blocking apparatus in use.

Detailed Description of a Preferred Embodiment

25 Referring to the drawings, a toilet blocking apparatus is shown at 10 in Figures 1 to 3. The apparatus includes a generally oval/elliptical top plate 12 having a length (major axis) L of approximately 380mm and width (minor axis) W of approximately 340mm. Two holes 14 are defined in the plate, the centres of those holes are spaced apart at a distance d of approximately 200mm.

30 Turning now to Figures 2 and 3, it can be seen that the blocking plate assembly includes an upper bracket 16 defining a longitudinal axis 16a and a lower bracket 18 defining a longitudinal axis 18a disposed on the underside of the plate 12.

The upper bracket is in the shape of a relatively wide generally U shaped channel defining flanges 20 either side of the U shaped channel. The base 22 of the
 35 channel has a length l_1 of 180mm. The height h_1 of the sidewalls 24 of the channel is approximately 30mm. Each flange 20 on either side of the central channel portion has

a length of approximately 70mm. As can best seen in Figure 3, there is a hole 26 in the centre of the base 22 of the upper bracket and a hole 28 in each flange adjacent the side walls 24.

The lower bracket 18 is flat has a length of approximately 320mm and also has a
5 hole 30 in its centre.

Both brackets are typically made of mild steel.

Figure 4 shows an partially exploded sectional view of the toilet blocking apparatus illustrating the fitting of the apparatus to the upper part 50 of a toilet bowl. The toilet bowl defines an upper surface or rim 52 on which a toilet seat may rest in use
10 and an internal depending lip 54 which depends down from the rim 52 and has a bottom edge 56 and functions as a fluid splashback preventer when the toilet is flushed.

Also shown in Figure 4, is a protective rubber rim 60 which extends around the perimeter of the mild steel plate 12 and protective rubber pads 62 defined on the ends of the two brackets 16 and 18. As shown in Figure 4, the upper bracket 16 and lower
15 bracket 18 are joined by a bolt 64 extending through the holes. A plastic knob 66 is provided on the bowl head for use in tightening the bolt 64 and drawing the two brackets together. Except when otherwise restrained, the lower bracket 18 and upper bracket 16 are able to rotate relative to each about the axis defined by the bolt 56.

In use, the brackets are initially linked by the bolt but separate from the blocking
20 plate 12. The brackets are inserted into a toilet bowl so that the upper bracket rests on the upper surface of the rim 52 of the bowl and the lower bracket is located below the lower edge of level of the depending lip/fluid splashback preventer 54. As is well known, toilet rims tend to be elliptical or oval in shape having a relatively larger major axis and a relatively shorter minor axis. The length of the lower bracket is such that it
25 will fit relatively easily under the rim into the bowl and past the lower edge of the depending lip/fluid splashback preventer 54 when it is aligned with the longer major axis of a typical toilet bowl. However when the axis 18a of the lower bracket is rotated relative to the major axis, the diameter of the toilet bowl decreases and the end portions of the lower bracket locate underneath the rim 52 and typically abut against the outer
30 walls of the narrower part of the toilet bowl. Once the lower bracket 18 is located underneath the rim 52, the bolt 64 can be tightened using the knob 66 to prevent relative movement of the upper and lower brackets and to lock the brackets to the toilet bowl.

Tamperproof screws can then be used to lock the plate to the upper bracket of
35 through the holes 14 in the plate and 28 in the upper bracket, thereby preventing

unauthorised use of the toilet bowl. The process of removal of the plate is the opposite of installation with a special tool being required to remove the tamperproof screws.

The blocking plate apparatus has to make it sufficiently difficult to remove to make it less effort for a workman to make a trip to the site's "portaloos" rather than attempt to remove the plate.

It will be appreciated by persons skilled in the art that numerous variations and/or modifications may be made to the invention as shown in the specific embodiments without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention as broadly described. The present embodiments are, therefore, to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive.

Dated this twenty-fourth day of September 2003

Andrew McDonald, Douglas Grevett
Patent Attorneys for the Applicant:

F B RICE & CO

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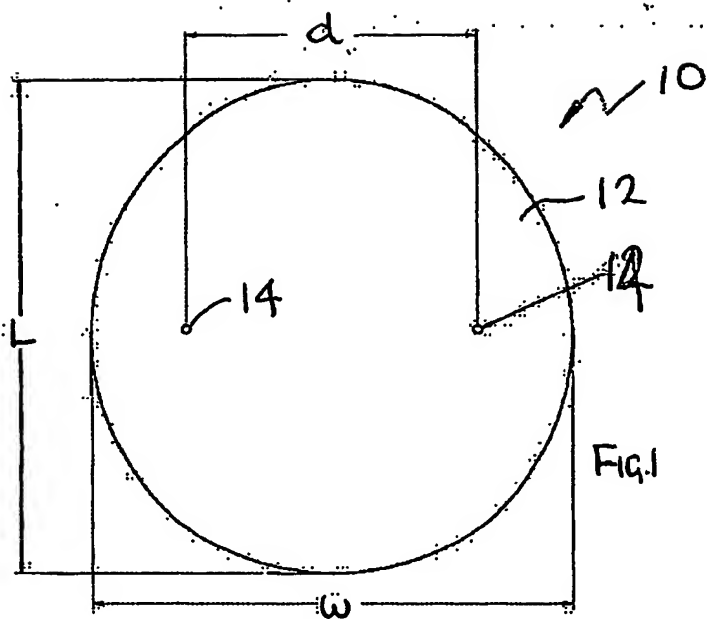


FIG. 1

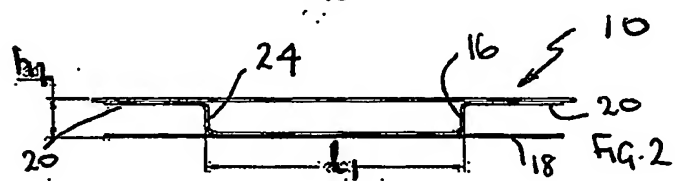


FIG. 2

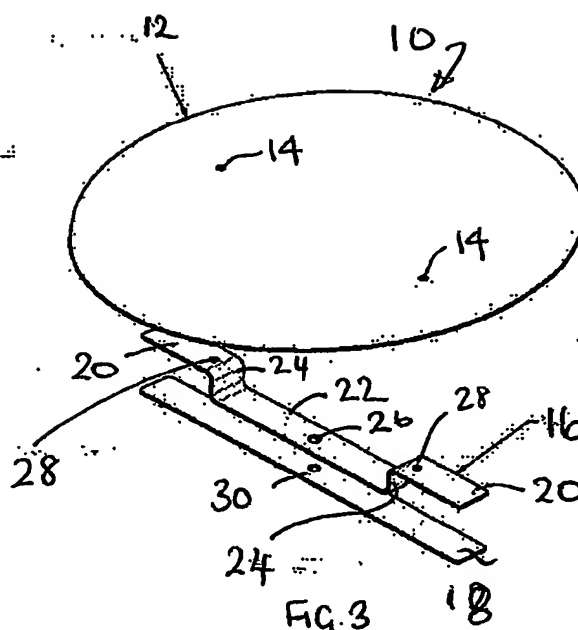


FIG. 3

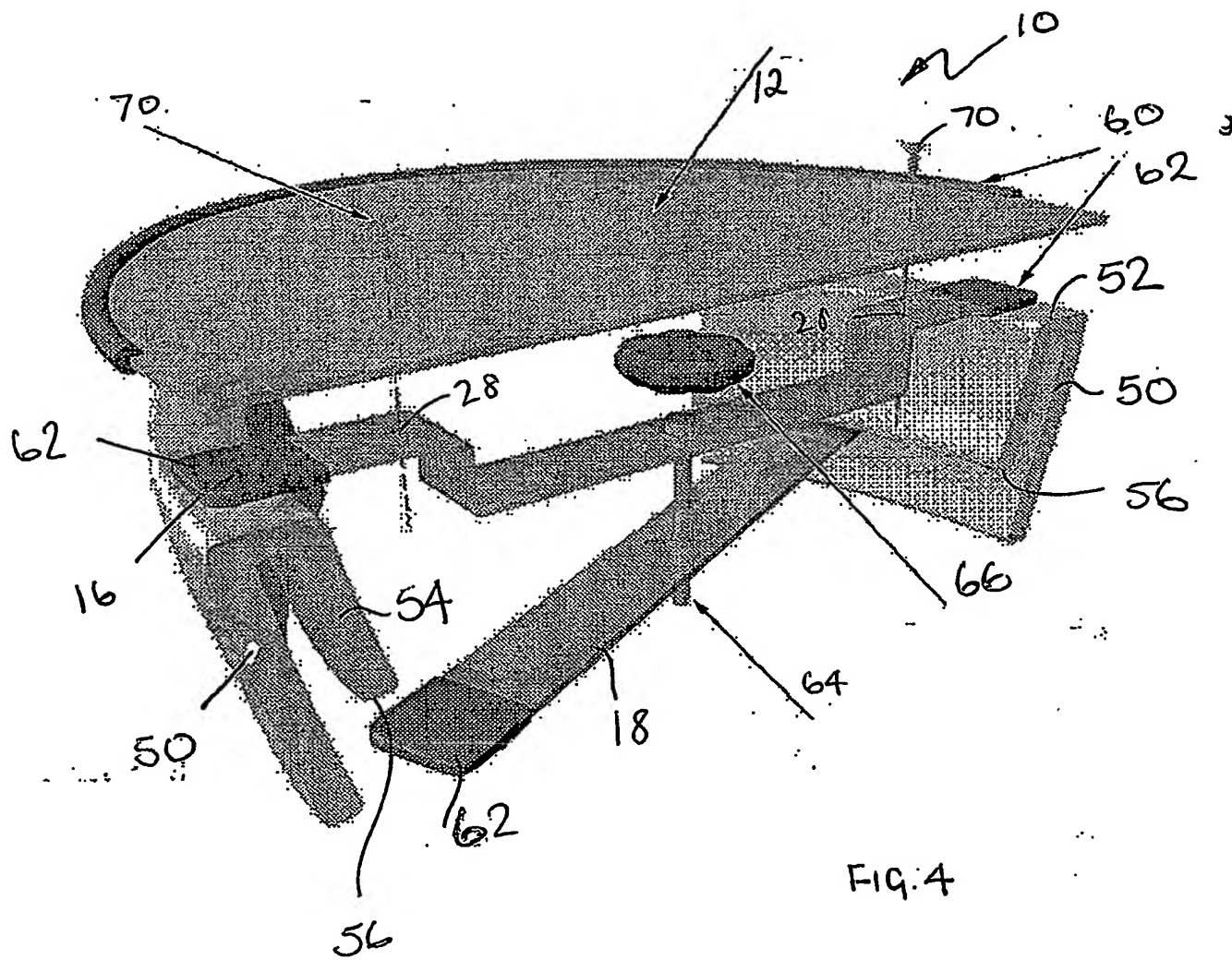


FIG. 4

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